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TRENDS

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, July 23, 1987 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended July 18 totaled an estimated 17.8 billion ton-miles, 6.5 percent above the corresponding week of 1986, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 29 weeks of 1987 was an estimated 496.4 billion ton-miles, up 3.2 percent from the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended July 18 totaled 386,855, up 3.7 percent from the corresponding week of last year, and 8.9 percent above the preceding week, which included the end of the annual coal miners' two-week vacation period. Compared with last year, loadings were up 0.2 percent in the East and up 7.6 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week last year, 14 of the 21 major commodity groups increased. Grain showed a gain of 8,773 cars (34.1 percent), coal gained 4,411 cars (4.3 percent), but motor vehicles and equipment decreased by 3,381 cars (18.9 percent). Thirteen of the 21 commodity groups increased from the preceding week.

Piggyback

The AAR reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads for the preceding week ended July 11 totaled 92,595 trailers and/or containers, 1.6 percent below last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 28 weeks of the year was 2,696,742 trailers and/or containers, up 3.5 percent from 1986.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 7/18/87:

	Loadings in Week ended July 18, 1987		Change from Corresponding Week 1986			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	34,482	I	8,773	34.1	I	2,403	7.5
Other farm products	3,464	I	9	0.3	D	242	6.5
Metallic ores	15,451	D	1,322	7.9	I	158	1.0
Coal	107,797	I	4,411	4.3	I	24,020	28.7
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	16,414	I	1,224	8.1	I	975	6.3
Nonmetallic minerals	8,488	D	909	9.7	D	948	10.0
Grain mill products	10,673	I	403	3.9	I	237	2.3
Food and kindred products	10,387	D	521	4.8	I	339	3.4
Primary forest products	10,887	I	472	4.5	I	378	3.6
Lumber and wood products except furniture	8,225	I	744	9.9	I	808	10.9
Pulp, paper and allied products	11,529	D	508	4.2	D	1,116	8.8
Chemicals and allied products	24,056	I	717	3.1	D	730	2.9
Petroleum products	5,142	I	197	4.0	D	79	1.5
Stone, clay and glass products	10,918	I	500	4.8	I	224	2.1
Coke	4,913	I	553	12.7	D	342	6.5
Metals and products	9,036	I	376	4.3	I	591	7.0
Motor vehicles and equipment	14,511	D	3,381	18.9	I	2,963	25.7
Waste and scrap materials	8,566	I	845	10.9	I	705	9.0
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	2,817	D	277	9.0	D	42	1.5
All other carloads	69,042	I	1,582	2.3	I	1,315	1.9
LCL traffic	57	D	56	49.6	D	12	17.4
Total Cars Loaded	386,855	I	13,382	3.7	I	31,605	8.9
Corresponding week of 1986	373,023						

	1987	1986	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (29 weeks)	11,120,646	10,838,943	I 2.6
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
28 Weeks ended July 11	478.7	464.3	I 3.1
Week ended July 18	17.8	16.7	I 6.5
29 Weeks cumulative	496.4	481.0	I 3.2

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